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ABSTRACT

This book argues the importance of the incidental learning that can occur when people become involved in voluntary organizations, social struggles, and political activity. Chapter 1 introduces the case studies of informal learning in social struggle used to develop the argument and outlines the theoretical framework within which the case studies are located. Chapter 2 argues that unlearning dominant discourses and learning resistant discourses are central to emancipatory learning, and applies theoretical insights on ideology and discourse to three case studies of women's learning in community and workplace struggles in the United States. Chapter 3 examines a successful campaign to preserve a rainforest in eastern Australia and the learning that occurred. Chapter 4 looks at the dynamics of community-based adult learning by examining informal learning in two neighborhood centers in an Australian city. Chapter 5 examines education and learning in the current process of global economic restructuring, and how and what workers learn as they negotiate workplace change. Chapter 6 examines the learning dimension of women's movements in Brazil from 1964-89. Chapter 7 examines whether political education and learning in the Zimbabwe national struggle promoted democracy and socialism, or whether the country was too weak. Chapter 8 discusses application of the analysis developed, reviews and relates the theoretical framework to a broader body of adult education theory, and suggests further research on the relationship of emancipatory struggle and learning. The book contains 257 references and an index. (YLB)

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